3/28

Mr. Wayne Chastain
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Memphis, Tn. 38105

2/28/77

Dear Wayne,

Glad to hear from you! Your letter of the 25th is informative and helpful to me in its explanations of the questions you ask,

We do not disagee on fact, or I do not question you when you tell me something is a fact. We do dissgree on interpretations. I guess this comes from our different experiences and from each has in his head that the other does not. In fact you have been very helpful to me when you have not understood what information I was seeking from you.

Not just yourxxxx papers, no papers did a good job of reporting the Shasteen report. The reason the Times did not cover it more extensively is probably because if there had been greater length a bit more of the whitewash would have shown.

The Manuel story was garbled. The threat he reported was of a lieutentant and not in Memphis but in Knoxville. The claim there merely was confusion. At first I considered it possible but level-headed Lee Payne ridiculed me out of that belief. He was right to use ridicule. I'm beginning to lean over too much in an effort to be fair to those terrible people who did such incredible things. I do not know Manuel. I have heard thename before. His committee is not reknowned for its responsibility, integrity or dispassion.

I don't know why Eddith was removed. I have beliefs. It would take a long time to present them to you. But I am certain that the lie told him, that it was all Secret Service, was of memphis origin. Thus I also disagree with your belief that "someone in Washington was calling security signals."

I have no question about your account of the surveillance on King on the 3rd. If you have any more details I would welcome them, no matter how minor they may seem to be to you. If it would be easier to just talk about it into a tape recorder I would take the time to listen on the chance there might be a small thing in your recall that could be of value to me, even if only triggering what I have forgetten is in my mind. You are absolutely right that those types were invisible on the fourth. But then King's schedule was different on the 4th.Did he not spend most of it at the Lorraine? So let me ask a question instead of giving you as fact what I cannot represent as fact, not knowing: how many people did the various police require to watch one motel room door for all the police to have all the benefit any and all surveillance could yield with King at the motel? One team was ample, wasn't it? And where were they going to keep all those trucks with all the gear they carried? In the motel parking lot? In the bushes behind the flophouse? It just was not feasible there. However, you omit something: how about where that night's meeting was to have been held? Wasn't Kay assigned to cover that? Why not ask her (and give her my warmest when you do) if she was not in fact at that palce and if in fact she did not see FBI agentsthere. I think you'd find if there were any way of checking that the trucks were where they could be used, not where they could not be used. That simple. By the way, if Kay or any other recall seeing these vehicles elsewhere, at the meeting place or anywhere else on the 4th, I'd like to know.

Yes, we agree on the riot. It was not spontaneous. But I do not recall your saying it "had a paramilitary precisionx about it." On this I would welcome as much detail as you can provide because it would help my understanding and when I get to it my writing. I have no trouble agreeing with your observation, which is why I'd appreciate anything you can add by way of explanation. What did nto observe that suggesting this kind of precision that, obviously, the young people had not had occasion to learn? You say this could not come from the MPD because it did not have enough money. But suppose it came instead from a couple of the Invaders who had received training? How many who could influence the others do you think it would have required? And have you considered the possibility of the FBI helping your local police? Probable to me. I'm suggesting that

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it need not be as complicated as you make it. You are saying Washington did it. I do not believe it. I do believe that if Washington had wanted to do it there would have been a straightforward offing, like a sophisticated and powerful bomb.

When you finish checking it out I'd be interested in knowing how you decide on military intelligence having Ray under surveillance after King was killed. I'm inclined to believe that if anyone had spotted him he'd have been arrested.

I also do not believe that Ray went to LWA.after the King killing and I'm certain that if he did he did not go to the St. Francis again. If you get anything on this I'd be interested in it as a disinformation operation, not as fact. it is not reasonable. Besides, he has been placed elsewhere with some certainty during that period of time. You say Frankie Darro is the source and this was three weeks after the shooting. Well, 13 days after the shooting a conspiracy charge was filed against Galt in Birmingham. Do you really believe that anyone would use that name a week after that where he had been known before? I don't. This is part of what I mean by keeping it simple. In much less than three weeks the FBI was all over the St. Francis.

I don't recall the 1/76 Village Voice stories you mention about Youngblood. I do not believe that Russell and Freed were in on some kind of deal with him.It may have helped Youngblood but not anyone else and would not be factual. That it is not factual will make it hot stuff for Freed. If Lomax was checking that out he deserved what happened. I doubt he was.

I did not know Lomax. I did his show once.

I'm sorry you had no stories with your letter. There must have been some local ones in Memphis. And sorry that you had no report on what Lane has been up to there. He is a walking encyclopaedia of misinformation, the phrase not mine. He has been on this subject and it has not helped the House committee a bit. I now he was there with Abby Mann.

Have you heard any more about the bugging of Dusty the broadman? Any other local reports or rumors? Do you remember a white man from Carolina the union sent in before the killing? I'm interested in him and would like to know his name. I saw Jonay Sabella, who was not helpful on this.

These complicated scenarios are find from Grade B- movie but not for reality. Try to keep your thinking as simple as possible and you'll find it productive. Thanks for the helpful information. Wish I thought I'd be able to get down there.

Hope things have picked up for you. Or have Memphians stopped getting drunk and being charged with DWI?

Best wishes,